Abstract

This invention describes a novel means for improving fluid intake rates in disposable absorbent composites by altering the surface charge on the components of such composites through utilization of surface charge treatments (*i.e.*, charge modifiers). The composite components contemplated for the invention may include, but are not limited to, conventional superabsorbent particles (SAP) and fluff fibers (fluff). The surface charge modifiers of the present invention are specifically selected to achieve an ionically (*i.e.*, electrically) generated repulsive force between the individual composite components in the presence of an insulting fluid. This active repulsion between composite components creates a condition in the composite conducive to superabsorbent swelling and generation of void volume and flow channels, thus improving the fluid intake rate.